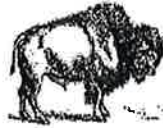
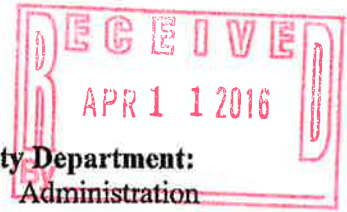


# Buffalo County Resolution



**Drafted By:**  
Sonya J. Hansen  
**Presented Month/Year:**  
March 2016  
**Involved Committees:**  
Finance

**County Department:**  
Administration  
**Fiscal Impact:** YES / NO  
**AC Approved:** YES / NO



RESOLUTION # 16-03-08

## A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE UW-COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MULTI-COUNTY REORGANIZATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the process used to develop the UW-Cooperative Extension Multi-County Reorganization plan was flawed, not transparent, raises many unanswered questions, and provided little opportunity for meaningful consideration of County concerns, including asking Counties for options to address any share of revenue shortfall that is used to justify the imposition of the plan; and,

WHEREAS, the plan likely jeopardizes the partnership between the UW-System and Wisconsin Counties, which implies working together to find solutions, not simply accepting a plan unilaterally imposed by a decision of the Chancellor of UW Colleges and UW-Extension; and,

WHEREAS, the current Cooperative Extension system has a proven track record of success for more than 100 years as a single County based model for governance, locally set levy contribution and individual County determined educational programming priorities under the policy guidance of each County Ag & Extension Committee designated by the elected County Board of Supervisors; and,

WHEREAS, the reduction target allocated by the plan to Cooperative Extension of \$1.2 million annually, is about 5.8% of the Total \$20.46 million County Levy support for Extension by the 72 Counties, and does not justify the complete dismantling of the current County-based Cooperative Extension system where there are multiple options to address the budget shortfall; and,

WHEREAS, there are up to 40 current faculty/academic staff educator vacancies within the system, providing sufficient savings to allow for an inclusive examination of cost saving options with Counties engaged as full partners, to consider if individual Counties are willing to contribute their proportionate share of the revenue decrease, or identify other non-levy revenue, or offer other expenditure reductions to make up their share of the shortfall allocated to Cooperative Extension by County; and,

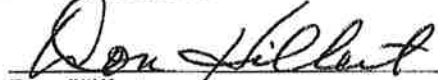
WHEREAS, the reorganization plan imposes a drastic and reckless change, eliminating 80 local faculty education positions, a reduction of nearly 50% in direct education staff, while adding an unnecessary bureaucratic layer of at least 18 "area-leader-director" positions who will not provide any face-to-face service and will not be accountable to local elected officials, community partners, program priorities, community needs, volunteers, funders or participants; and,

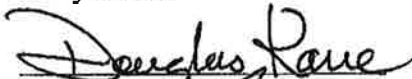
WHEREAS, Wisconsin Counties are unlikely to continue the current level of County Tax Levy support in future years if direct educational services are decreased by up to 50%, thereby making the proposed multi-county educational delivery structure financial unsustainable.

Respectfully Submitted:


Finance Committee

  
Larry Grisen

  
Don Hillert

  
Douglas Kane

~~Yes - appeared remotely~~  
David Danzinger

  
David Eddy

**ANTICIPATED FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Total Tax Levy 2016	\$	159,686
2016 Tax Levy Paid to UW System	\$	95,647